

10/065,712
Amdt. Dated May 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Jan. 14, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long in view of applicant's admission of Prior Art, Kodama, Saito, Parente, Chou and Zebelean. Saito is presented to teach that the use of alpha-phase titanium is well known in the golf club art. However, Saito discloses a specific sintered beta titanium alloy, and further Saito teaches away from the use of alpha-phase titanium as demonstrated by comparative Example 1.

FIG. 7 of Saito is a photomicrograph showing the microstructure of the tissue of the material after the hot isostatic pressing. The tissue is "comprised a matrix of an $\alpha+\beta$ phase and α -Ti particles dispersed therein to form a composite structure. Densification did not sufficiently proceed, and pores remained after the hot isostatic pressing." (Column 15, lines 25-31).

Thus, Saito teaches away from using alpha-phase titanium alloys.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to include a whereby limitation directed to the limited inward face progression of the striking plate insert of the present invention after at least 500 hits of a golf ball at a swing speed of 110 miles per hour, support for which is found in Figure 12.

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It is believed that the claims 1-8 are now allowable. The Applicants therefore respectfully solicit a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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